

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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1/24/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Act 4:27-28

"For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined [proorizo - always carries with it the purpose of God] to occur."

Predestined to Suffer

Jesus' suffering was a blessing to Him ("who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross" - Heb 12:2). We believers are called the same way, to suffer for Christ's sake (e.g.: for the Gospel)("For to you it has been granted [charizomai - suffering is a grace gift] for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" - Php 1:29).

*** Reward-Retribution-1 diagram ***

*** Reward-Retribution-2 diagram ***

Grace

You were PREDESTINED to suffer for Christ's sake!

"double-minded"

from dipsuchos - "double-souled"; refers to the person who wavers between God's ways and the world's ways; is the source of instability in life

Grace

The best decisions are made when we take the time to evaluate the context of our circumstances. This is analogous to lacking wisdom and insight and praying to God for directions on what to do (or not do) next.

Grace must be appropriated correctly in your soul.

Grace is illumined with confession and prayer.

Grace

If your motives are wrong, the objective of grace is no longer consistent with God's.

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A committed Bride is a faithful, submissive one.

What Are We Confessing?

If we can't even agree with Him on "How" to live the spiritual life...we are "confessing", in a sense, that we know better and that we will self-sanctify ourselves.

Salvation Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Salvation from sin

Man's Perspective ("tenses")

- Positional (from penalty of sin)
- Experiential (from power of sin)
- Ultimate (from presence of sin)

Salvation Perspective

Salvation is living in the Gospel reality.

Perseverance of the Saints

"From faith to faith" expresses that true faith is not a single event, but a way of life - it endures. In this sense, the "righteousness from God" that "is revealed" is unique to true believers only, for they "live by faith"!

Saving Faith

You were saved by grace through faith (positionally) and you are saved by grace through faith (experientially). It is "by faith" that the righteous man lives!

Counterfeit Salvation

All religions come back to one basic, satanic strategy - that is that the creature saves himself, sanctifies himself, for himself, and by himself! (cp Jn 17:15-19)

Jn 17:17-19 [Amplified]

Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth. Just as You commissioned and sent Me into the world, I also have commissioned and sent them (believers) into the world. For their sake I sanctify Myself [to do Your will], so that they also may be sanctified [set apart, dedicated, made holy] in [Your] truth.

Sanctification Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Sanctified (set apart for Him)

Man's Perspective ("phases")

- Positional (imputed R+ / judicially)
- Experiential (imparted R+ / daily)
- Ultimate (completed R+ / eternally)

ONLY God Can Sanctify Man!

If you lose sight of the Gospel, you will doubt this basic truth and adopt a form of self-sanctification eventually.

Faith and Righteousness

What Paul is getting at in Ro 1:17 when he says "this righteousness that we've received from God" is "revealed" is that it is revealed in such a way that faith is the channel for grace that sanctifies (at salvation and beyond - aka "from faith to faith").

Our Deliverer

God saves (delivers) us at every phase of sanctification. He gives us faith through which His grace is poured out. A believer "lives by faith".

J. Vernon McGee on "from faith to faith"

"From faith to faith" simply means out of faith into faith. God saves you by faith, you live by faith, you die by faith, and you'll be in Heaven by faith."

J. Vernon McGee on "from faith to faith"

"When I was born, my mother said the doctor lifted me up by my heels, gave me a whack, and I let out a cry that could be heard on all four borders of that great state."

J. Vernon McGee on "from faith to faith"

"I was born into a world of atmosphere and that whack started me breathing. From that do to this I have been breathing atmosphere. From air to air, from oxygen to oxygen."

J. Vernon McGee on "from faith to faith"

"Much later, in the state of Oklahoma, I was born again. I was saved by faith, and from that time on it has been by faith - from faith to faith."

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Sanctify / Sanctification

Used 106 times in the OT and 31 times in the NT. In general, it refers to being set apart or the state of being so. It typically relates to matters of position and relationship; for example, regarding a person's standing with God.

Holy / Holiness

Used ~400 times in the OT and 12 times in the NT, referring to believers. Refers to being separated from that which is unholy. Christ was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners; thus He was sanctified. Except for God, sinlessness is not necessarily implied, as even the holiest of priests in the OT were sinners.

Both sanctified and holy are context sensitive in the Bible.

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